

Date Mailed August 15, 2000

BEFORE THE
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WISCONSIN

Notification by Bruce Telephone Company, Inc.,
That It Intends to Increase Telephone Rates

820-TR-100

**NOTICE OF PROCEEDING AND INVESTIGATION
AND ASSESSMENT OF COSTS**

THIS IS A PROCEEDING opened in response to the notice received on July 18, 2000, from Bruce Telephone Company, Inc., (applicant), that it intends to increase rates for local exchange telephone service at its Bruce exchange in Rusk County.

In this proceeding, applicant proposes to increase rates for local access lines and for nonrecurring service charges. In the case of the latter charges, some of the increases exceed 30 percent. For those items, applicant requested and was granted a waiver for the purpose of notifying customers in accordance with the provisions of Wis. Stats. § 196.215(2g)(b).

Bruce Telephone Company, Inc., mailed notice of this proposal to its customers on August 1, 2000. Under Wis. Stats. § 196.215(3)(a), the proposed rates will become effective November 1, 2000, as specified in the notice. Customers have the opportunity to petition the Commission for an investigation of the utility's rate increase.

NOTICE IS GIVEN that the Commission will investigate this matter under Wis. Stats. § 196.215(3)(a). If, within 60 days of the mailing of the utility's notice to customers, the Commission receives a petition from at least 165 customers requesting that the Commission determine rates, further investigation will be necessary. The utility's proposed increases may still go into effect; however, the rates will then be subject to refund.

The Commission considers it necessary, in order to carry out its duties, to investigate all books, accounts, practices, and activities of the applicant. The expenses incurred or to be incurred by the Commission which are reasonably attributable to such an investigation will be assessed against and collected from the applicant in accordance with the provisions of Wis. Stats. § 196.85 and Wis. Admin. Code ch. PSC 5.

The Commission does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the provision of programs, services, or employment. Any person with a disability who needs accommodations to participate in this proceeding or who needs to get this document in a different format should contact the case coordinator listed below.

Docket 820-TR-100

Questions regarding this matter may be directed to case coordinator Tom Gross at (608) 267-2337 or (800) 225-7729.

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin, _____

By the Commission:

Lynda L. Dorr
Secretary to the Commission

LLD:TAG>tag;jah:g:\notice\pending\820-TR-100-tag-7-00.doc